

# Equitable and Inclusive Library Policies

2020 Trustees and Friends Conference  
Remaining Vital:  
Your Library as Community Connector in  
Uncertain Times

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## Why we are here today

To examine the often unintended implications of common library policies

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Explore how policies can be reframed to help the library be inclusive and welcoming to *all* community members

“All library policies, regulations, and procedures should be carefully examined to avoid denying or restricting access or creating barriers to access.”

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarypolicyguidelines>



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## Policies to consider

- Requirements to get a library card
- Fines
- Computer Use
- Collection Development
- Behavior
- Accessibility
- Meeting room policy
- Bulletin board policy



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## FEND Acronym

- **F**irst Amendment: Libraries must protect the right of free speech.
- **E**qual enforcement: Policies must be applied consistently.
- **N**otice: All policies should be clearly posted or distributed.
- **D**ue process: A well-defined appeals process must be available to patrons who challenge policies.

Attributed to lawyer-librarian Mary Minow

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2018/06/01/librarians-guide-home>



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“Balancing the needs of different patrons requires that libraries do their best to promote an atmosphere that is welcoming to all patrons and conducive to everyone’s enjoyment of the library.”

<http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2013/04/library-service-to-the-homeless/>



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## Contact & Resources

Link to related resources:

<https://bit.ly/2RNjo4M>

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